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Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Kathy Angerer, Chair
Members, House Health Policy Committee
Michigan House of Representatives

FROM: Sean Gehle, Vice President, Advocacy
Felicia Wasson, Director of Public Policy

DATE: Thursday, March 22, 2007

RE: **HB 4207 – Nursing Educational Requirements**

On behalf of the eight St. John Health hospitals located in southeast Michigan, we thank you for the opportunity to support HB 4207 pending before this committee. If enacted, HB 4207 would make the Michigan licensure process for foreign educated nurses more efficient by eliminating the requirement for the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)-RN Exam.

As an integral part of the private healthcare safety net, we are committed to the health and safety of our patients and our workforce. Health care providers around the state continue to struggle with the current nursing shortage and we welcome initiatives, such as HB 4207, that will assist us in attracting talented and committed professionals. Our highly trained nursing staff is key to our mission of delivering high quality care to all that we serve.

We believe that HB 4207 would assist our hospitals in attracting nursing professionals to come to Michigan and provide care to our citizens in need. We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- Michigan is one of only 7 states that still require the CGFNS-RN exam as a prerequisite to taking the National Council State Boards of Nursing Licensing Exam (NCLEX)
- The CGFNS-RN exam is not a licensing exam. It is marketed as a tool to predict success on the NCLEX
- Eliminating the foreign nurse exam would reduce duplication and in turn would reduce the time required to process applications for foreign nurses; allowing them to get to work in our facilities faster.

It is for these reasons that we support the passage of HB 4207. We thank you for considering our views. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact us at (517) 482-1422.

